

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea, comprising the steps of:
 implanting a blank having a plurality of sections within said live cornea such that a shape of said blank alters a curvature of said live cornea; and
 removing at least one of said sections of said blank from said live cornea, or
 implanting an additional section of said blank within said live cornea, to further change a curvature of said live cornea.

2. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea according to claim 1, wherein
 said implanting step includes implanting a ring-shaped blank having a plurality of sections within said live cornea.

3. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea according to claim 1, wherein
 said implanting step includes implanting a first section of the blank having an opening therein and implanting a second section of the blank within said opening of said first section.

4. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea according to claim 1, wherein
 said implanting step includes implanting a first section of the blank on the surface of the live cornea and implanting a second section of the blank on the surface of the live cornea, said first and second sections each forming about one half of said blank.

5. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea according to claim 1, further comprising the step of
 ablating at least one of said plurality of blanks.

6. A method for modifying the curvature of a live cornea according to claim 1, wherein
 said removing at least one of said sections of said blank step includes removing at least one of said sections through a small incision in the cornea.

7. A method for correcting the refractive error in a cornea of an eye, comprising the steps of:

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea, the inlay having a first surface and a second surface, and the second surface being adjacent the surface of the cornea,

applying energy to the inlay to ablate a portion of the first surface of the inlay by an amount adapted to correct the refractive error in the eye,

removing the inlay from the surface of the cornea,

separating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal surface, the first corneal surface facing in a posterior direction of the eye and the second corneal surface facing in an anterior direction of the eye, and

positioning the inlay adjacent at least one of the first corneal surface and the second corneal surface.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay having a convex second surface.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay have a flat second surface.

10. A method according to claim 7, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay have a toric second surface.

11. A method according to claim 7, wherein
positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay
have a concave second surface.
12. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of
aiming a laser at the first surface of the inlay; and
activating the laser, thereby ablating a portion of the inlay.
13. A method according to claim 7, wherein
the step separating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal
surface includes, forming a flap in the surface of the cornea.
14. A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of
moving the flap to expose the second corneal surface before the step of
positioning the inlay adjacent at least one of the first corneal surface and the second
corneal surface.
15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of
repositioning the flap so that the inlay is positioned between the first and
second corneal surfaces.
16. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of
rinsing the inlay before the step of positioning the inlay adjacent at least one of
the first corneal surface and the second corneal surface.
17. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of
reseparating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal
surface, the first corneal surface facing in a posterior direction of the eye and the
second surface corneal facing in an anterior surface of the eye,

exposing the first surface of the inlay, and
 applying energy to the inlay to ablate another portion of the first surface of
 inlay to correct the refractive error in the eye.

18. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of
 applying energy to at least one of the external surface of the cornea and a third
 corneal surface to ablate a portion of the cornea to correct the refractive error in the
 eye.

19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of
 forming a flap in the surface of the cornea,
 moving the flap to expose the third surface of the cornea,
 applying energy to the third surface of the cornea to ablate a portion of the
 third surface to correct the refractive error in the eye.

20. A method for correcting the refractive error in a cornea of an eye, comprising the
 steps of:
 separating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal surface,
 the first corneal surface facing in a posterior direction of the eye and the second
 surface corneal facing in an anterior direction of the eye,
 positioning an inlay adjacent at least one of the first corneal surface and the
 second corneal surface,
 measuring the refractive error in the eye,
 altering the refractive properties of the inlay, and
 repositioning the inlay adjacent at least one of the first corneal surface and the
 second corneal surface.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein
 the separating step includes forming a flap in the surface of the cornea.

22. A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of
- moving the flap to expose the second corneal surface and the first surface of the inlay,
 - aiming a laser at the first surface of the inlay, and
 - activating the laser, thereby ablating a portion of the first surface of inlay to correct the refractive error in the eye.
23. A method for correcting refractive error in a cornea of an eye, comprising the steps of:
- separating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal surface, thereby forming a flap in the surface of the cornea, the first corneal surface facing in a posterior direction of the eye and the second surface corneal facing in an anterior direction of the eye,
 - moving the flap to expose the first and second corneal surfaces,
 - positioning an inlay having a first surface and a second surface adjacent at least one of the first corneal surface and the second corneal surface,
 - repositioning the flap so that the inlay is positioned between the first and second corneal surfaces,
 - moving the flap to expose the first surface of the inlay, and
 - applying energy to the first surface of the inlay to ablate a portion of the first surface of inlay to correct refractive error in the eye.
24. A method according to claim 23, wherein
- positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay having a convex second surface.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay have a flat second surface.

26. A method according to claim 23, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay have a toric second surface.

27. A method according to claim 23, wherein

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea includes, positioning an inlay have a concave second surface.

28. A method of correcting refractive error in a cornea of an eye, comprising the steps of

separating the cornea into a first corneal surface and a second corneal surface, the first corneal surface facing in a posterior direction of the eye and the second corneal surface facing in an anterior direction of the eye,

allowing the cornea to at least partially heal,

positioning an inlay on the surface of the cornea, the inlay having a first surface and a second surface, the second surface being adjacent the exterior surface of the cornea,

applying energy to the inlay to ablate a portion of the first surface of the inlay by an amount adapted to correct the refractive error in the eye,

reseparating the cornea into the first and second corneal surfaces, and

positioning the inlay adjacent at least one of the first and second corneal surfaces.